

JOINT NEWS RELEASE

Coconino National Forest & Coconino County



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Coconino County to hold wildfire information meeting for local residents of Forest Highlands and Kachina Village

Flagstaff, Ariz. – Coconino County will hold a community meeting today for residents within the Kachina Village and Forest Highlands subdivisions to provide information on the Slide Fire, burning north of Slide Rock State Park.

The meeting will be held at 1 p.m. today at the Forest Highlands Fire Station 23 at 3350 Old Munds Highway, south of Flagstaff.

There are **NO** additional mandatory evacuations in place at this time other than those listed yesterday (from Slide Rock State Park to Sterling Springs Hatchery). However, it is prudent for residents near the fire to be prepared to evacuate should the need arise.

Residents will be given advanced warning when that action is required. Residents are also asked to please register their cellphone number with the County's **CodeRED** emergency notification system at www.coconino.az.gov/emergency. Only those residents whose numbers are registered will receive a direct phone call about any type of pre- or mandatory evacuation order.

For those members of the community that cannot make the meeting, information presented will be posted on the County's webpage at www.coconino.az.gov and on the County's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/coconinocounty.

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Slide Fire: Afternoon update

Flagstaff, Ariz. – The Slide Fire is located in Oak Creek Canyon just north of Slide Rock State Park and burning northward, up the canyon into places such as West Fork and Harding Point.

Overview: Firefighters are concentrating on keeping the fire west of Highway 89A, minimizing impacts to structures and utilizing terrain and fuel features to fight the fire. Smoke is heavy through Oak Creek Canyon and creating very hazy conditions in Flagstaff as the smoke moves mostly in a northern directly. Smoke will likely continue to drift north and be noticeable along I-17 as motorists approach northern Arizona.

Winds are expected to be approximately 10-12 mph in Oak Creek Canyon today and gusts of 30 mph above the rim of the canyon.

A Type I Incident Management Team has been ordered and is expected to arrive at approximately 3 p.m. Public information will be handled by the team and new points of contact for Slide Fire information will be sent to members of the media once the team is established.

Law Enforcement is seeking any information the public may have regarding the start of the Slide Fire and anyone of suspicion in the area yesterday between Slide Rock State Park and Half Way Picnic Area. The public should call Forest Service Law Enforcement at 928-527-3511 if they have any information that might assist law enforcement in the investigation.

Information regarding the Slide Fire will be updated on Inciweb as it becomes available:

<http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/state/3/>

Size: Current official size is 850 acres. However, acreage is expected to grow throughout the day and reach approximately 1,000 to 2,000 acres by nightfall. An accurate acreage count is usually determined by overflights that are conducting at night, so the next official acreage may not be available until the following morning of the flights.

Containment: 0%

Location: Originated just about 4 to 5 miles north of Sedona, just north of Slide Rock State Park.

Date Reported: Tuesday, May 20 at approximately 4 p.m.

Cause: Human caused, under investigation

Current Resources: Approximately 200 personnel including five hotshot crews, three air tankers, three helicopters, one air attack, 10 engines, two water tenders, Sedona Fire, a fuels crew and two dozers.

Ordered Resources: One Type 1 Incident Management Team, 15 hotshot crews, 10 Initial Attack crews, 40 engines, one light helicopter and additional overhead personnel.

Closures:

- Highway 89A from Sedona to Fort Tuthill in Flagstaff
- Forest Road (FR) 535 at Highway 89A
- FR 533 at Highway 89A
- FR 231 at Rogers Lake
- FR 527 and 530 (west side; Volunteer Canyon area)
- Casner Mountain is closed to all vehicles

Evacuations: An approximate 2 to 3-mile stretch of area from Slide Rock State Park north toward the Sterling Springs Hatchery has been evacuated, as well as the East Pocket Forest Service Lookout Tower. Evacuees are being relocated to Sinagua Middle School in Flagstaff. There is no count as to how many individuals have been evacuated.

Structures Threatened: Approximately 100 structures are currently threatened north of Slide Rock State Park, which include private homes as well vacation resort cabins and a Forest Service Lookout tower.

Injuries: No injuries reported.

Note to the Media: A Media Staging Area is available and has moved from the previous position due to movement of the fire. The staging area is now located at Fort Tuthill and directions are below:

Directions to Fort Tuthill from Phoenix:

1. Take I-17 north to Exit 337 (Flagstaff Airport/89A Exit).
2. At the stop sign, turn West (left), go over the bridge to Highway 89A.
3. The entrance to Fort Tuthill will be directly in front of you.
4. POC at Overlook for Media is Bill Morse: 928-699-4497.

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